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STREET SALES 25c

EPA releases responses from Medley

Several companies, Greenville man identified in letter to federal agency

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today released responses attributed to Gaffney businessman Clyde Medley regarding an EPA probe of illegal dumping of toxic wastes.

The federal agency released the information in response to a Freedom of Information request. The package included a letter from Medley's attorney, Wade S. Weatherford III, seeking additional information, and responses to EPA questions. Weatherford said the responses were made by Medley.

Kirk R. Macfarlane, assistant regional counsel for EPA, Region IV, said in a letter March 20 that Medley's initial response to EPA inquires "fails to adequately outline the financial transactions which occurred in the disposal of wastes at the

Text of Medley statement, page 2

(Ralph) Medley farm."

Weatherford told Macfarlane that his client was willing "to cooperate with your agency in any way to assist them in obtaining information which they desire."

EPA is seeking to determine responsibility for waste found at Ralph Medley's farm on Burnt Gin Road in 1983. The site was cleaned up using \$600,000 of Superfund money.

Under the Superfund law, EPA can sue responsible parties for up to three times the cost of the cleanup operation.

In the initial response, Medley said he was contacted by Charles S. Tanner of Greenville about an area to dispose barrels of latex residue. Tanner said the barrels would be sealed and "was absolutely non-dangerous and non-poison," ac-

cording to the statement.

Medley said his cousin, Ralph Medley, was interested in Tanner's proposal "so long as there was a guarantee that the contents would not be poisonous or dangerous."

Medley said he has never met Tanner, and that no agreement was ever signed. He also denied being or having been "in the business of storing or hauling any type of containers of industrial waste."

The statement attributed to Medley said Tanner placed 85 percent of the waste materials on the site. It also named Tanner Chemicals in Greenville ("... which I think is separate from Charles S. Tanner ...," the statement said); ABCO Chemicals, Roebuck; Unisphere Chemicals, Spartanburg; Polymer Industries, Greenville; and Ethox Chemicals, Greenville, as other firms which placed waste containers on the Ralph Medley property.

The wastes were hauled to the site over a 20-month period from "late 1973 into 1975 when Ralph decided to quit," the statement said.

Neither Ralph nor Clyde Medley ever applied for a permit to store the material because "Tanner gave assurance that the storage was legal, customary and was a common practice that violated no law and would not harm anyone's health," the statement said.

The statement also denied knowledge of any "Mr. Weatherford" being involved in the dumping agreement. Attorney Weatherford, in his response to EPA, asked for further identification of this individual. Macfarlane identified him as Wade S. Weatherford Jr.

Macfarlane also asked for specific information on financial aspects of the agreement and records of transactions, and said Medley's response should be signed, rather than attributed as "information offered by Clyde Medley."

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